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30 March 1956

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Dear George:

We are attempting to set a very tight time schedule for development of System No. 4 in the form agreed upon recently as a result of meetings with your technical representatives. Maintenance of the schedule we are about to establish will necessitate a certain amount of subcontracting on our part, this being particularly true in the case of receiver "front ends". Such subcontracting will necessitate our setting up specifications relative to the electrical requirements on tuning range, intermediate frequency, noise figure, image rejection required, and spurious radiation. Specifications must also be established for certain mechanical requirements such as tuning rates, sweep characteristics, and tuning shaft rotational relationships.

Data of this sort is characteristic of that pertaining to surveillance-type receivers, and it is probable therefore that an intelligent subcontractor would recognize that we were engaged in the development of surveillance-type equipment. Such equipment could be used, of course, for a considerable variety of purposes, and we are inclined to believe that disclosure of specifications of the kind mentioned to the few potential subcontractors competent to undertake work of the kind required and who would, in all likelihood, possess military plant clearance to the level of Secret or higher, would not compromise the security of the present program.

We should like, however, to receive your approval of this plan prior to the establishment of any contacts with subcontractors by our people. Companies likely to be involved would be [redacted] and perhaps a few others. If you wish, we can arrange to secure specific preliminary authorization for such contact immediately prior to the time at which discussion is planned.

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Sincerely,

Burt
Burt

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